

**TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE FINANCE REVENUE AND BONDING
COMMITTEE
February 23, 2009**

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Testimony Supporting Senate Bill No.834

AN ACT CONCERNING THE AUTHORIZATION OF SPECIAL TAX OBLIGATION BONDS OF THE
STATE FOR CERTAIN TRANSPORTATION PURPOSES

Senator Daily, Representative Staples and distinguished members of the Finance Revenue and Bonding Committee thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on Senate Bill No. 834, An Act Concerning the Authorization of Special Tax Obligation Bonds of the State for Certain Transportation Purposes.

This bill authorizes \$247.2 million of Special Tax Obligation Bonds (STO) in FY 2010 and \$243.4 million in FY 2011 to finance the capital programs of the Department of Transportation, including additional funding for the fix-it-first programs.

The bill most notably authorizes \$550 million in FY 2010 to provide the additional financing required to construct the essential elements of the rail maintenance facility in New Haven. These essential elements, as determined by our consultant, will provide the necessary facilities to service the expanded rail fleet as the new rail cars begin to arrive during the forthcoming biennium.

The program requests are as follows:

	<u>FY2010</u>	<u>FY2011</u>
New Haven Rail Maintenance Facility	\$550,000,000	
Fix-it-First Program for Bridges	45,000,000	
Fix-it-First Program for Roads	30,000,000	
Capital resurfacing and related projects		\$ 68,900,000
Soil, water supply and groundwater remediation	6,000,000	6,000,000
Interstate Highway Program	13,000,000	13,000,000
Intrastate Highway Program	42,500,000	44,000,000
State Bridge Improvement Program	32,300,000	33,000,000
Urban Systems Projects	8,500,000	8,500,000
Department facilities including alterations and repairs	6,400,000	6,400,000
Cost of Issuance and Debt Service reserve	21,300,000	21,300,000
Bus and rail facilities and equipment, including rights-of-way	40,000,000	40,000,000
Development and Improvement of General Aviation Airports (excluding Bradley International Airport)	2,000,000	2,000,000
Reconstruction and improvements to the warehouse and State Pier, New London	200,000	300,000
TOTAL -	\$797,200,000	\$243,400,000

These funds are expected to leverage approximately \$800 million in Federal funds in FY 2010 and more than \$1 billion in FY 2011.

I would like to again thank the committee for the opportunity to present this testimony. I respectfully request the Committee support this bill and I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.